

Chapter One

Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+)

Introduction and Background

TIME	EVENT	GRADE LEVELS	DETAILS	TIME OF YEAR
1987	ISTEP is created			
1988	ISTEP is first administered	1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9	Multiple-Choice Writing	Spring
1995	ISTEP changes to ISTEP+	3, 6, 8, and 10	Norm-referenced and Criterion-referenced	Fall
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2002 (2004)	ISTEP+ reflects new 2000 Academic Standards	3, 6, 8 (10)	Criterion-referenced	Fall
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2003	ISTEP+ adds other grade levels	3-8, 10	Criterion-referenced	Fall
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2008	ISTEP+ moves to the spring	3-8	Criterion-referenced	Fall and Spring
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2009	ISTEP+ / new Graduation Requirement	3-8 / Algebra I and English 10	Criterion-referenced	Spring / Completion of course
			Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	
2015	ISTEP+ reflects new college- and career-ready 2014 ELA, Math Standards	3-8 / Algebra I and English 10	Criterion-referenced	Spring / Completion of course
			Applied Skills, Multiple-Choice, Technology-Enhanced	

TIME	EVENT	GRADE LEVELS	DETAILS	TIME OF YEAR
2016	ISTEP+ (including new Grade 10 test)	3-8, 10	Criterion-referenced	Spring
			Applied Skills, Multiple-Choice, Technology-Enhanced	
2017	ISTEP+ Grade 10 ELA, Math tests become new Graduation Requirement	10	Criterion-referenced	Spring
			Applied Skills, Multiple-Choice, Technology-Enhanced	

The Purpose of ISTEP+ Assessments in Grades 3-8 and 10

The purpose of the *Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+)* program is to measure student achievement in the subject areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In particular, ISTEP+ reports student achievement levels according to the *Indiana Academic Standards* that were adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education. The ISTEP+ assessment is criterion-referenced and is designed to measure students' mastery of the standards. Student performance on ISTEP+ is part of school accountability.

Beginning in 2016-17, the ISTEP+ Grade 10 English/Language Arts and Mathematics tests replace the End of Course Assessments in Algebra I and English 10 as the graduation examinations. Every Indiana student in the graduating class of 2019 and beyond must demonstrate mastery of the Indiana Academic Standards measured by the ISTEP+ Grade 10 English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments.

Structure and Content of ISTEP+ Testing for Spring 2017

In light of the implications of ISTEP+ scores for students, schools, and corporations under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—reauthorized in 2016 as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—and PL 221-1999 (federal and state accountability), test administrators must be accurate and methodical in test preparation and administration, as well as in reporting student demographic characteristics. Testing personnel should note the following regarding the administration of the Spring 2017 ISTEP+:

- I. ISTEP+ consists of two major components:
 - a. ISTEP+ Part I
 - i. Administered in February/March
 - ii. Online and paper/pencil administrations include applied skills (open-ended) items

- b. ISTEP+ Part 2
 - i. Administered in April/May
 - ii. Online administration includes multiple-choice and technology-enhanced items
 - iii. Paper/pencil administration includes multiple-choice, and in Grades 4-8 and 10, gridded-response items
- 2. Online Administration Details
 - a. For Spring 2017, the Part 1 Assessment is expected to be administered online for English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies in order to match instructional practice that incorporates the use of technology.
 - b. For Spring 2017, the Part 2 Assessment is required to be administered online for English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies at all grades unless documented issues regarding infrastructure, capacity or connectivity prohibit a site from testing all students online.
- 3. English/language arts and mathematics are assessed in Grades 3-8 and 10.
- 4. Science is assessed in Grades 4, 6 and 10 (or at the conclusion of a high school credit-bearing Biology I course).
- 5. Social studies is assessed in Grades 5 and 7.
- 6. The mathematics portion of the assessment in Grades 3-8 includes a fluency section. Sample items are posted at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>.
- 7. The mathematics portion of the assessment in Grades 4-8 and 10 includes a reference sheet of formulas and conversions for students to use while testing. Students can use the reference sheet to help them solve some of the problems on the assessment, as Mathematical Process Standard 5 requires the use of appropriate tools strategically. Reference sheets for Grades 4-8 Spring 2017 ISTEP+ are posted at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>. A reference sheet for the Grade 10 Spring 2017 ISTEP+ administration is posted at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10>.
- 8. The paper-and-pencil version of the ISTEP+ Part 2 Assessment includes gridded-response mathematics items for students in grades 4-8 and 10. This type of item is included in ISTEP+ Part 2 practice tests for students who take the paper-and-pencil version of the ISTEP+ assessment.
- 9. The mathematics portion of the assessment in Grades 6-8 and 10 includes the use of calculators on particular test sections. Students may use their own calculators or calculators supplied by the classroom teacher. Contact the School Test Coordinator for a list of the electronic devices that are NOT permitted for use on any portion of ISTEP+, or go to <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> and <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10>.
- 10. Sample items for the Spring 2017 ISTEP+ test are available at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> and <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10> in the “Item Samplers” section.

Testing Accommodations

The approved accommodations outlined in *Appendix C* apply to ISTEP+. The provision of these testing accommodations may be administered by classroom teachers in addition to program area staff (i.e., EL teacher). Test examiners must be made aware of each student's allowable accommodations.

ISTEP+ Cut Scores

The State Board of Education, on the basis of recommendations from Indiana educators and the Technical Advisory Committee, sets the passing scores on ISTEP+ assessments. A document containing ISTEP+ cut scores can be found in the "Additional Resources" section of the ISTEP+ webpages: <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> and <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10>.

ISTEP+ Grade 10 Results Displayed on Transcript

Per IC 20-33-2-13, a student's latest test results must be included on the student's high school transcript. Latest tests include the ISTEP+ Grade 10 English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments. Schools have two options for displaying these results on transcripts: 1) the numerical scores (including the student score and *Pass* cut score); or 2) the *Pass/Did Not Pass* performance level.

Data Collection and Reporting

Purpose

The purpose of the DOE-TL data collection is to gather details used to populate student-level information for online testing and barcode labels for the ISTEP+ assessments. The barcode labels and online information will help reduce set-up time requirements of the assessments and will also ensure more accurate student information.

Audience

This is a required collection for schools administering ISTEP+:

- Public schools (Traditional and Charter)
- Nonpublic schools (Accredited and Freeway)
- Choice Scholarship Schools

Obtaining Labels and Online Student Information

Student information must be submitted for barcode labels and online testing during the DOE-TL collection window. The required data for online and barcode labels should be collected, combined into a file, and submitted to the Department of Education through the Application Center by the DOE-TL collection date. If corporations do not submit their data by the collection deadline, school staff will be required to hand enter student demographic information into the vendor system or hand bubble each individual test booklet.

The student data in the vendor system reflects the information that is submitted by each school corporation during the DOE-TL collection window. ***Please note that accountability data is not taken directly from the vendor system, but from other data sources at the IDOE.*** Please contact

the Office of Accountability via email regarding any accountability-related questions using the following address: SchoolAccountability@doe.in.gov.

ISTEP+ (Grades 3-8, and 10) Assessment Windows for 2016-2017

Please review the “Assessment Testing Windows” section of the Office of Student Assessment’s website at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment> for more details on testing windows.

Exceptions to Required ISTEP+ Testing Dates

In general, no public or other educational institution administering ISTEP+ may administer ISTEP+ on dates outside of the assessment windows (see above) established by the State Board of Education. However, the State Board has allowed the Department limited authority to grant exceptions to established testing dates under the following guidelines:

The Department shall:

- Not approve requests that provide for administration more than one week prior to the established period.
- Not approve requests for late administration.
- Approve only those requests based on long-standing community tradition or extraordinary or emergency circumstances.

Those wishing to request early administration of ISTEP+ should complete and submit a written request for approval (see form in *Appendix B*). The request should adhere to the State Board guidelines cited above.

Note: The results from the ISTEP+ assessment must be communicated to parents in a timely manner.

Also Note:

For additional information regarding ISTEP+, please access <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> and <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grade-10>.